

EFFICIENTLY STORING ELECTRONIC PROGRAM GUIDE

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 The present invention partitions the EPG, allowing storage of portions of the
 EPG in separate memory components. Based on viewer preferences, the invention
 identifies preferred portions of the EPG and stores these portions in the more rapid
 memory. The more rapid memory can be electronic, or RAM. The invention
 partitions the EPG into at least three portions: the channel portion, the schedule
 portion and the program portion. The invention further divides each portion into a
 10 subportion (or submodule) including only preferred data. The invention updates the
 information stored in the memory module having the most rapid access. The
 invention also detects infrequently accessed portions of the EPG stored in the most
 rapid memory and moves the infrequently accessed portions to memory with slower
 access. The memory with slower access can be magnetic, or a hard drive. Storing
 15 only preferred portions of a program guide in memory having rapid access maintains
 the speed of access to the preferred portions of the EPG and increases the amount of
 available memory with rapid access.